

REMARKS

Claims 28-57 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 28, 29, 31-45, 49, 50, 53, 55, 56, and 57 have been amended as shown at pages 2-6 of the Reply. In addition, claims 30, 47, and 51 have been cancelled.

Applicant's representative appreciates the Examiner's acknowledgement in the Office Action that claims 30-40, 47, 49, and 51-53 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, independent claims 28, 55, and 57 have been amended to incorporate the allowable features of claim 30, independent claim 45 has been amended to incorporate the allowable features of claim 47, and claims 50 and 56 have been amended to include the allowable features of claim 51.

Applicant's representative also thanks Examiner Ulrich for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview conducted on October 3, 2007, during which the aforementioned amendments were discussed. Examiner expressed that the wording of the amended claims appears proper, and that the amendments to the independent claims would most likely overcome the present rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of art reference Wu, *et al.* Examiner stated that he will perform another search on the amended claims after formally receiving the Reply. Examiner also indicated that the current amendments appear to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Rejection of Claim 55 Under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claim 55 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 55 has been amended to recite data stored on a computer-readable storage medium, which is clearly statutory subject matter. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

II. Rejection of Claims 28, 29, 41, 43 and 55-57 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 28, 29, 41, 43 and 55-57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Wu, *et al.* (IBM Systems Journal, Vol. 37, No. 1: SpeedTracer: A Web usage mining and analysis tool). Amended independent claims 28, 56, and 57 have been amended to

include features deemed allowable by the Examiner, as noted in the opening remarks. It is therefore requested that this rejection be withdrawn with respect to those independent claims, and claims 29, 41, 43, 55, and 57, which depend there from.

III. Rejection of Claims 42, 44-46, 48, 50 and 54 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 42, 44-46, 48, 50 and 54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu, *et al.* However, independent claim 45 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 30, and claims 46, 48, 50, and 54 depend from this amended independent claim. Additionally, claims 42 and 44 depend from independent claim 28, which has likewise been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 30. In view of these amendments, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [MSFTP288USA].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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